

October 26, 1989

**1989 NIKE CENTENNIAL CLASSIC PREVIEW
U.B.C. - U.P.E.I. - BISHOP'S - CONCORDIA**

The 24th edition of the Nike Centennial Basketball Tournament takes place **November 3-4** at the Concordia Athletic Complex. Three of Canada's top ten teams from last year, including the Concordia Stingers, will take part in the tournament.

The Stingers have a strong nucleus of players returning after finishing sixth in the nation in 1989. Three starters are back including M.V.P. **Michael Cohee** (6-1; Montreal, Que.). Swing-guard Cohee averaged 15 points and five rebounds per game last year. He will be joined by a pair of imposing forwards who will pick up the bulk of the rebounds and score inside. **Nick Arvanitis** (6-5; Montreal, Que.) and **Dino Perin** (6-8; Montreal, Que.), both conference all-stars in 1988, have looked good in the early going.

Key newcomers at the guard position are **Trevor "Turbo" Williams** (5-11; Montreal, Que.) and C.C.A.A. All-Canadian **Robert Ferguson** (6-1; Montreal, Que.). Williams is lightning-quick and will give the team a good fast break while Ferguson averaged 20 points per game in leading Vanier College to a Provincial crown last season.

The pre-tournament favourite would have to be the **U.B.C. Thunderbirds**. The T-birds were ranked eighth in last year's final rankings and appear much stronger in 1989. Leading the way will be the C.I.A.U.'s best backcourt tandem. All-Canadian and National Team member **J.D. Jackson** (6-5; Vernon, B.C.) returns along with Canada West All-star **Alan Lalonde** (6-3; Kelowna, B.C.). They will be joined by solid forwards **Mike Clarke** (6-8; Kelowna, B.C.), **Jason Leslie** (6-6; Vancouver, B.C.) and **Jeff Strother** (6-5; Kamloops, B.C.).

"We've got some pretty solid people on this squad," says Head Coach Bruce Enns. "Finding scorers on this team should not be tough. Our ability to get over the hump and finish first will depend on our ability to rebound and play sound defense. I like our chances a lot."

The **U.P.E.I. Panthers** finished last year number three in the final rankings. They have some holes to fill with the graduation of guards Curtis Brown and Alonzo Wright, who averaged 35 points per game between them. However, they need to look no further than All-Canadian **Peter Gordon** (6-1; Oshawa, Ont.) for leadership. Gordon averaged over 20 points per game last year and is an early favourite for "Player of the Year" in the C.I.A.U. Forward **Dennis Smith** (6-4; Toronto, Ont.) is also expected to contribute to the Panther attack after shooting 70% from the field last year, second in the C.I.A.U. Quality point guard **Darrell Glen** (6-2; Toronto, Ont.) with forwards **David Dunn** (6-4; Fitchburg, Mass.) and **Ronnie Deighan** (6-5; Summerside, P.E.I.) make up the rest of the Panthers' starting unit.

The **Bishop's Gaiters** are hoping to move into Canada's top ten after advancing to the Nationals in 1988. Eight players return headed by All-Canadian guard **David King** (6-2; Montreal, Que.). King averaged 20 points and six rebounds per game last year on the way to being named M.V.P. in the O.U.A.A. Senior forward **Pierre Tibblin** (Pierrefonds, Que.) also returns along with his 22.8 P.P.G. average, fourth best in the nation. The Gaiters have added **David Fisher** (6-8; Toronto, Ont.) to a solid front court led by **Jeff Harris** (6-3; Montreal, Que.) and **Warren Newberry** (6-5; Smiths Falls, Ont.).

"We now have some depth and size to go along with our talent," states coach Eddie Pomykala. "Everyone has the type of work ethic that allows us to improve on last year's performance and hopefully return to the National Championship tournament."